



FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Memorial Day Holiday Weekend Traffic Alert

TALLAHASSEE - The Florida Highway Patrol (FHP), a Division of the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (DHSMV), will be out in force during the 96-hour Memorial Day holiday weekend, which begins on Friday, May 23, 2008, and extends through midnight, Monday, May 26, 2008. The Florida Highway Patrol will participate in three distinct traffic enforcement operations during this period: Operation C.A.R.E. - a Combined Accident Reduction Effort, involving all 50 state police and highway patrol organizations (May 23-26); All-American Buckle Up Week (May 19-26); and the highly publicized Click It or Ticket mobilization campaign (May 19 - June 1). All three campaigns focus on saving lives, preventing injuries, and reducing property damage associated with motor vehicle traffic crashes.

“Vehicle traffic is expected to increase significantly throughout the state during this four-day holiday period,” stated Colonel John T. Czernis, director of the Florida Highway Patrol. “We’ll be using all available resources to make Florida roadways safer. We are also reminding motorists to slow down and buckle up. This high visibility enforcement has a single goal in mind - to save lives,” emphasized Czernis.

All uniformed FHP personnel, including those normally assigned to administrative duties, will be patrolling interstates and other major state roads throughout the four-day holiday period. This strategy is intended to increase the Patrol's presence on major arteries throughout Florida in an effort to deter traffic violators and to provide enhanced service to motorists who break down while traveling or need other assistance. In addition, our Auxiliary and Reserve troopers will be volunteering their time to assist regular troopers during the heightened holiday enforcements.

Motorists are reminded to use their cellular phones wisely and safely. FHP urges all drivers to call *FHP (*347) to report aggressive and/or drunk drivers or if they need assistance on the road. Motorists needing emergency medical services should dial 911.